



The Minnesota Department of Health is pleased to announce two training courses for environmental laboratory assessors. The training sessions will be held at the Minnesota Department of Health's new laboratory and office buildings in St. Paul on September 18-20, 2006. The courses include instruction for assessment of radiochemistry methods and for improved interviewing skills to perform more accurate and efficient assessments.

Performing Technical Assessments of Radiochemistry (a laboratory certification course for radiochemistry)

Performing Technical Assessments of Radiochemistry will include: radiochemistry theory, radiation safety, methods review, and assessing to the 5th edition of the USEPA Lab Certification manual and the 2003 NELAC standard. The U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) recommends that assessors attend this training to supplement the inorganic chemistry certification officer's training presented by the U.S. EPA Cincinnati (TSC) each year. The radiochemistry course is designed to conform to the 2003 NELAC standard for assessor technical training.

Invited speakers:

- U.S. EPA OGWDW (for updates on federal regulations and Chapters 1-3 of the Lab Certification manual);
- Jeff Brenner (supervisor, Radiochemistry/Metals section for the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory);
- John Lorenz (radiation safety officer for the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory);
- Lynn West (Radiochemistry unit for the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene); and
- Richard Sheibley (Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection).

Interviewing Skills for Assessors

In addition to the radiochemistry training, assessors may choose to attend a ½-day training course entitled *Interviewing Skills for Assessors*, which follows the radiochemistry technical course on September 20, 2006. The course is designed to complement the NELAC Basic Assessor Training course.

Invited speaker:

- Natalie Durbin (Human Resources Training Unit for the Minnesota Department of Health)

Preparation/Pre-requisites for the training courses:

1. Basic knowledge of radiochemistry technologies and the radiochemistry methods currently approved by the U.S. EPA for analysis of drinking water under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations;
2. Practical experience in the implementing of the U.S. EPA requirements for certification of laboratories testing drinking water samples; and
3. Knowledge of quality systems (in particular, Chapter 5 of the 2003 NELAC standard).

Course objectives:

Participants who successfully complete the course will have sufficient knowledge to assess laboratories for various methods and technologies used in radiochemistry analysis. Completion of the course provides assessors with sufficient knowledge to review effectively the final reports and raw data packages associated with these various methods and technologies.

Final exam:

All participants will receive a certificate of attendance; however, successful completion of the radiochemistry course requires a minimum score of 70% on the final examination.

Registration:

To register, please complete the attached registration form and return it via email to susan.wyatt@health.state.mn.us. Priority will be given to current state certification officers/assessors who register prior to August 1, 2006.

There is **no registration fee** for either course; however, if you register and are unable to attend, please notify Susan Wyatt at susan.wyatt@health.state.mn.us or via phone at 651-201-5323 as soon as possible. The number of seats will be limited so your cooperation will ensure that those wishing to attend can be notified of any vacancies.

Travel information:

The nearest commercial airport is the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) International airport located approximately 10 miles from downtown St. Paul.

A block of rooms has been reserved at The City Center Hotel in St. Paul (651-291-8800 or 866-781-8800 for reservations). The hotel is located at 411 Minnesota Street in St. Paul, approximately seven blocks from the Department of Health buildings (12th and Minnesota Streets with main entrances at Robert Street). When making reservations, please specify that you are reserving a room for the "US EPA Radiation Assessor Training" group. The hotel has reserved this block of rooms at the government rate of \$113.00/night+tax. Reservations must be made by August 18, 2006.

**Performing Technical Assessments of Radiochemistry
(a laboratory certification course for radiochemistry)**

September 18 - 20, 2006

And

Interviewing Skills for Assessors

September 20, 2006

Registration (*Please print or type*)

Name (Certificate):

Name (Badge):

(if different, i.e., shortened form)

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Street

City/State/Zip Code

Email Address:

Office Phone Number:

Office Fax Number:

Degree/training/experience:

Years of Experience as a Certification Officer (if any):

Please list any special physical accommodations: _____

I plan to attend:

_____ **both** training sessions.

_____ the **Radiochemistry Assessor** training only.

_____ the **Interviewing Skills for Assessors** training only.

I am also interested in acknowledgement of attendance for:

_____ NRC requirements for radiation safety training.

You will receive confirmation and a course agenda the week of August 1, 2006. *If you need to cancel, please notify Susan Wyatt at 651-201-5323 or email: susan.wyatt@health.state.mn.us as soon as possible, so the slot may be given to another individual.*